

## Issue 16 — January 31, 2003

### In this issue:

- **Legislative update, bills of interest, online resources, and hearing schedule**
- **HECB staff seeks insights into student debt loads**
- **Legislative session puts 2001-02 Unit Record to work**
- **HECB launches redesigned Web site**

### Legislative update

By the close of the third week of the 2003 session, the Legislature's initial sprint seems to have given way to the statelier pace of a marathon. Lawmakers introduced two more bills of interest to the aid community this week:

- Senate Bill 5294 allows federal or state work study awards (along with an educational program) to meet the work requirement for full-time participation in WorkFirst for a period of up to 24 months.
- House Bill 1486 and its companion, Senate Bill 5476, exempt surviving spouses and children of certain law enforcement officers or firefighters from paying tuition and fees.

On the next page is our full list of bills with financial aid implications, followed by next week's hearing schedule. For information about other bills that the Higher Education Coordinating Board is tracking, contact Colleen Scovill at [colleens@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:colleens@hecb.wa.gov) or (360) 753-7850.



Higher Education  
Coordinating Board

[HECBFinancialAid@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:HECBFinancialAid@hecb.wa.gov)

<http://www.hecb.wa.gov>

All material used  
by permission.  
Copyright laws apply.  
The Higher Education  
Coordinating Board  
neither endorses nor  
claims responsibility  
for the accuracy  
of information reported  
from secondary sources.

## Senate bills of interest

Bill Number (House Companion)	Description	Sponsor(s)
SB 5004	Creates an endowed scholarship for Hispanic American students	Jacobsen
SB 5010	Authorizes branch campuses to offer lower-division coursework	Jacobsen
SB 5135	Requires students with an excess of 120 percent of the credits required for a degree or certificate to pay tuition equivalent to the full cost of instruction	Carlson, Kohl-Welles
SB 5136	Expands membership of the Higher Education Coordinating Board to include the Superintendent of Public Instruction	Carlson, Schmidt
SB 5137	Specifies that students who meet 10 <sup>th</sup> -grade reading and math standards on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning [WASL] shall be deemed to have met the state's general undergraduate admission requirements	Carlson
SB 5138	Establishes meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> -grade reading and math standards on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning [WASL] as another avenue for students to qualify academically for the Promise Scholarship	Carlson
SB 5139	Requires school districts to bear the cost of instruction for remedial postsecondary education course work, including student tuition	Carlson
SB 5158	Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington	Carlson, McAuliffe
SB 5241	Requires that the state budget provide funding for actual enrollments at public institutions; includes provisions for additional financial aid funding based on increases in enrollments and the costs of attendance	Kohl-Welles, Carlson
SB 5249	Establishes the Higher Education for Lifelong Progress (HELP) program, which would provide grants to assist college-eligible Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) recipients for up to two years of higher education; allows participation in the HELP program to count toward TANF work requirements	Kohl-Welles, Shin

### Senate bills (continued)

SB 5294	Allows students enrolled in a postsecondary program and earning their full federal or state work study awards to count as full-time WorkFirst participants for a period of up to 24 months	Kohl-Welles, Regala
SB 5357	Authorizes tuition waivers on a space-available basis for children of faculty at institutions of higher education	West, Sheahan
SB 5405	Permits a limited number of students to use their State Need Grant awards out of state at select historically black colleges	Jacobsen

### House Bills of Interest

Bill Number (Senate Companion)	Description	Sponsor(s)
HB 1079	Authorizes resident tuition for certain undocumented students residing in Washington	Kenney, Cox
HB 1123	Ensures that unspent financial aid funds at the end of a fiscal year are preserved for financial aid purposes through the creation of a dedicated account	Kenney, Cox
HB 1277	Creates a supplemental educational assistance grant program for State Need Grant eligible students with dependents; private sources would fund the program entirely	Kenney, Cox
HB 1437 (SB 5448)	Makes permanent institutional tuition-setting authority for all but resident undergraduates; existing authority expires June 30, 2003	Kenney, Cox
HB 1486 (SB 5476)	Exempts the surviving spouse and children of certain law enforcement officers or firefighters from paying tuition and fees	O'Brien

### Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation

Full text of bills and supporting materials:	<a href="http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm">http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm</a>
Complete legislative hearing schedule:	<a href="http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm">http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm</a>
Live and archived Web broadcast of all hearings:	<a href="http://www.tvw.org">http://www.tvw.org</a>
HECB 2003 legislative session site:	<a href="http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Leg/index.asp">http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Leg/index.asp</a>

## **Hearings on financial aid and select higher education issues — Feb. 3 - 7**

### **Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003**

House Higher Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D (TVW)

Public Hearing:

- HB 1437
- HB 1079

### **Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003**

Senate Higher Education Committee, 10 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 3

Public hearing, including:

- SB 5136

### **Friday, Feb. 7, 2003**

House Higher Education Committee, 8 a.m., House Hearing Room D

Public Hearing:

- HB 1123

Work Session:

- HECB evaluation of Promise Scholarship
- Update on Guaranteed Education Tuition program and college savings plan proposal

Executive Session, including:

- HB 1979

Senate Children and Family Services and Corrections Committee, 8 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 4

Public Hearing, including:

- 5294

## **HECB staff seeks insights into student debt loads**

How much do Washington students borrow?

It's a question Higher Education Coordinating Board staff receive from state legislators, policymakers, and Board members. Sometimes it's prompted by broader conversations about the need for and availability of financial assistance, or the price of attending college. Sometimes it follows news articles or opinion pieces in the press.

Information about student borrowing is also important to the Board's student financial aid policy and analysis work.

There is good national research on student borrowing, but inadequate information about borrowers in our own state. Although aid administrators report annual borrowing on the Unit Record Report, statewide information for aggregate debt of Washington college graduates has not been available.

Earlier this week, Linda LaMar, senior associate director for education services at the Board, asked aid administrators if they could provide information about the cumulative average amount borrowed by students leaving their schools. This data will be valuable in demonstrating the need for grant assistance in a time of rising college costs and severe state budget constraints.

Our thanks to the many aid administrators who have already responded. We look forward to receiving information from others in the next few days. If you have questions, contact Linda at [lindal@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:lindal@hecb.wa.gov) or (360) 753-7854.

### Legislative session puts 2001-02 Unit Record to work

Thanks to one and all for your efforts in completing the 2001-02 Unit Record Report. Information from the report helps us keep legislators and other policymakers informed about financial aid concerns. During this legislative session, we've already used the Unit Record to describe financial aid recipients and explain the types and amount of aid available at Washington colleges and universities.

Board staff is now developing ways to provide information from the Unit Record Report to colleges and universities. Aid administrators will soon have access to institutional, sector, and statewide data from the report.

Board staff has also started planning for the 2002-03 report and beyond. We will talk to many aid administrators over the next several months, and convene a work group to help think through ways to improve reporting and feedback.

In the box to the right you will find two facts from the 2001-02 Unit Record Report. Look for other "2001-02 Unit Record Facts in Brief" in future issues of the *Financial Aid News*.

#### 2001-02 Unit Record Facts in Brief:

Total financial aid to students with documented financial need in Washington:

**\$1 Billion**

Number of needy students in Washington who received financial aid:

**About 119,000**

## HECB launches redesigned Web site

This week, the Board launched a newly redesigned and reorganized Web site located at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/>.

Visitors can now quickly and easily access Board reports and publications, and scan local news stories and national reports on issues involving higher education and related topics. Students and parents can learn about state and federal aid programs and how to save for college, apply for aid, and search for scholarships through a new "Financial Aid and Paying for College" section. A new button on the Web site's home page, "For Financial Aid Administrators," links directly to the Board's secure password-protected site. Previous issues of the *Financial Aid News* also will be posted on the site.

We encourage you to visit our new site and tell us what you think. Please send your comments and ideas to Whitney DalBalcon at [whitneyd@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:whitneyd@hecb.wa.gov) or call her at (360) 753-7815.